Volunteer Firemen

Professional Journal of the Volunteer Firemen's Section of the National Fire Protection Association

Volume 1, Number 15 **BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS** **December, 1934**

Seeing this, the fire chief ordered the building closed. He believed it was just plain luck that the 200 small children who had gathered there on Christmas Eve were not burned to death. Note the bunting overhead. The stove pipe and an electric cord pass through it. The floor is covered with wood shavings and the windows are covered with evergreen trees. The exits are small and badly obstructed.

The Holiday Fire Season

Campaigns Will Prevent Injury and Death to Firemen in Needless Christmas Fires

DURING the Christmas season each year many lives are lost and homes are destroyed by fire. Volunteer firemen in many communities have found it worth while to point out the special Christmas hazards to the general public early in December.

Fires during this part of the year bring hardships to firemen as well as to people who may lose property and loved ones. The freezing of hands and feet at winter fires is a common occurrence. Exposure of men who are driven into the cold to answer alarms and to fight needless fires is frequently followed by pneumonia. Then, too, fires are more difficult to fight in winter and the freezing of extinguishing appliances hinders the work of firemen.

Christmas fires are largely caused by carelessness in the use of decorations and lighting effects.

The presence of combustible Christmas trees, decorations, trimmings, toys, and other things which are used to brighten up and help celebrate the holiday, are easy subjects for ignition by small sparks and they spread fire rapidly. In the last few years the

The pretty but dangerous practice of placing candles in windows at Christmas. Electric lighting equipment has reduced this hazard somewhat, but even electric devices must be used with care.

availability of decorations which do not burn readily has somewhat improved this situation.

Firemen are also helping themselves when they help citizens to prevent fires. There are two ways in which they seek the co-operation of the people in their community—first, by educating their fellow townsmen in the simple safety precautions by making talks to various groups of people, by putting articles in the local newspaper, and through the use of pamphlets and posters; second, by putting on a thorough inspection campaign in the shopping district during the few weeks before Christmas.

Many fire departments do effective work from a safety to life point of view by watching places of public assembly to make sure that aisles and exits are kept clear of obstructions and that other fire safety precautions are taken.

Even a small fire in a crowded store, theatre, church or school may result in a panic and cause loss of life. Christmas trees and their decorations and lighting effects present special hazards which require the attention of firemen.

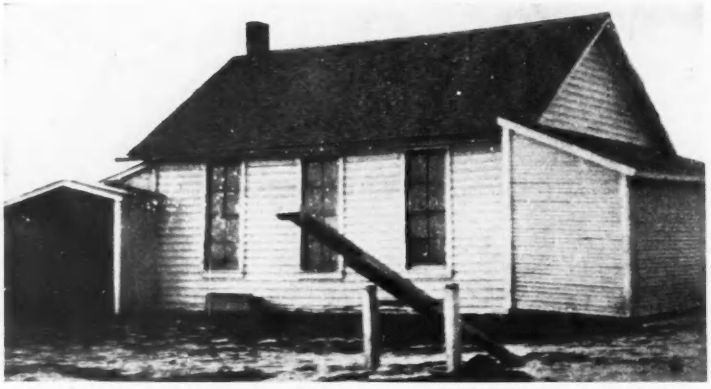
Evergreen trees are highly flammable, especially when they have been allowed to become dry. They should not be placed near a fireplace or stove and neither should they be placed in a position where they will block an exit. Trees should be firmly anchored so that they cannot easily be tipped over by children reaching for things on them. If a tree can be placed in a pan of water or bucket of moist earth, it will help keep it fresh and attractive for a longer time and the branches will not burn as readily as those that have become dry.

In all cases trees should be removed within a few days after Christmas day as they become more of a hazard the longer they are in a warm house. Many fires are caused each year because trees are not removed soon enough.

The amazing carelessness of many people in keeping old dry trees around after Christmas is well illustrated by the following case. One year in the month of May, a member of the Providence, R.I., fire department made a radio talk in which he mentioned that old Christmas trees were a fire hazard. The next day over 60 trees were put out by householders for the rubbish collectors.

Decorations made of paper, cotton, celluloid, and other materials having low ignition temperatures should be kept away from sources of ignition. The use of cotton for "snow" has caused many large loss fires. Asbestos wool, properly treated cotton, metal tinsel, and glass decorations and trimmings are safe to use.

The use of candles on trees is very dangerous. Although the use of electrical tree-lighting units has reduced this hazard, they too must be used with care. Electric bulbs should be screwed tightly in their sockets and should not be placed near pine branches, wreaths, or other decorations, because the bulbs generate considerable heat and may ignite them. The insulation on the wiring should be examined each year.



Two hundred people were crowded in a one story school house for a Christmas party at Babb Switch, Oklahoma. A candle set fire to the tree and 33 persons lost their lives in the fire which followed and the stampede for the one exit.

"Modern" Fire Fighting Methods of 1789

The remarkable illustration reproduced above is furnished through the courtesy of the editor of *La Prevention du Feu*, a monthly journal of the French fire service published in Paris. The following description was furnished by the chief of the Geneva, Switzerland, fire department.

This picture represents the scene of a memorable fire in a dwelling house in Geneva during the winter of 1789, which was a particularly severe one. Everything was frozen up and in order to be able to throw water on the fire it was necessary first to thaw the ice by means of bonfires built on the street.

The artist has left us here a very precious document abounding in details, and with the help of the following key to the numbers in the picture one can follow the work of the rescuers.

One is astonished at the richness and variety of the means of aid employed more than a century ago. The mutual help of the inhabitants is touching, the woman of rank fraternizes with the woman of the people, the magistrate brings his help as well as the workman; all fight the fire with the same enthusiasm and ardor.

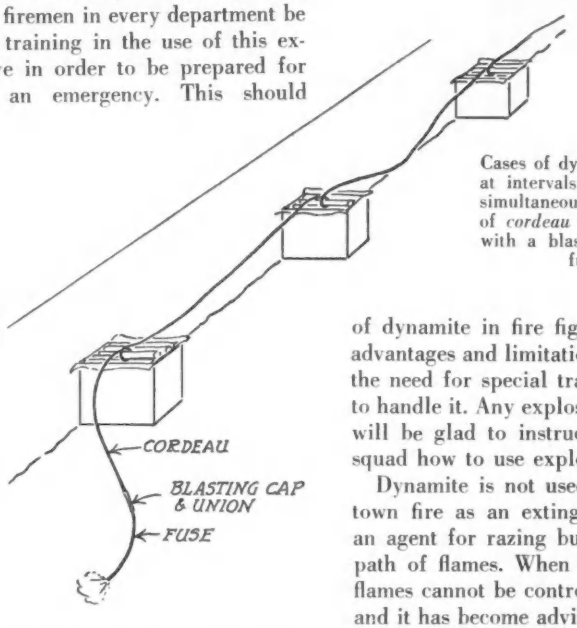
Key

1. Wood ladder made up of several pieces, one fitting into the other.
2. Ladder braces.
3. Firemen holding the ladder straight while others are ascending.
4. Sections of the ladder.
5. Device used in assembling the ladder.
6. Various types of ladder braces.
7. Wagon carrying all the sections of the ladder.
8. Way of passing a lantern from one window to the other attached to a rope to draw up the crane.
9. Crane which, after being fastened to the window with an iron clamp, is used in raising the cloth chute.
10. Cloth chute.
11. The mouth of the chute with its iron clamps. More detailed view.
12. Firemen holding the chute stretched out.
13. Way to enter the chute.
14. Firemen holding the chute with ropes.
15. Wagon containing the chute and its accessory parts.
16. Way to break the windows with a chain in the form of a whip.
17. Fire pump in action.
18. Basket containing a fireman with a hose.
19. Various views of the basket.
20. Pulley used to raise the basket.
21. Rope provided with wool knots to slide with the help of a belt and without burning one's hands.
22. Magistrates acting as policemen at the fire.
23. Officers of the fire brigade.
24. Officers and special constables recruited from public-spirited citizens.
25. Messengers transferring the orders of the magistrates.
26. Men and women carrying water.
27. Ladies throwing sand and ashes on the ice in order to avoid falling.
28. People heating the water to prevent freezing.
29. The large lantern and its hook, attached to the top piece of the ladder in order to guide those mounting the ladder.

Using Dynamite to Fight Big Fires

Trained Men May Use It Effectively to Check Spread of Large Fires When Other Means Fail

DYNAMITE, when handled by men trained in its use, may sometimes be effectively used to fight fires which have gotten out of control of other means of extinguishment and to prevent them from spreading to property of greater value. Although dynamiting needs to be resorted to only in rare cases, it is desirable that a few firemen in every department be given training in the use of this explosive in order to be prepared for such an emergency. This should largely guard against the very real danger of ill advised attempts by untrained and irresponsible persons to use dynamite.



Cases of dynamite placed at intervals can be fired simultaneously by the use of *cordeau* in connection with a blasting cap and fuse.

Some fire departments have organized dynamite squads. For example, Fresno, California, has a squad composed of its chief officers and other picked members of the fire department. An explosive expert was secured to conduct a school of instruction which consisted of lectures and the actual blasting down of certain structures in the city which it was desired to remove. The chief feels that with this trained squad he is sure to have in any emergency a number of men who will know how to combat fire with explosives and who will be able to direct intelligently the operations of less experienced firemen.

Detailed instructions for safe storage and effective handling of dynamite are not attempted in this article, but it seems desirable to present some reliable information on the function of dynamite in fire fighting, and its advantages and limitations, as well as the need for special training of men to handle it. Any explosives company will be glad to instruct a dynamite squad how to use explosives.

Dynamite is not used at a city or town fire as an extinguisher but as an agent for razing buildings in the path of flames. When the spread of flames cannot be controlled by water and it has become advisable to wreck some buildings in the path of the flames in order to save property of greater value, the use of dynamite is practically the only means to do this quickly enough to check it.

At the Ellsworth, Maine, conflagration on May 7, 1933, which destroyed 127 buildings with an approximate loss of $1,350,000, an attempt to set off a charge of dynamite was not successful. This apparently was due to lack of training on the part of the men handling it. Although a second attempt was successful, the fire had by this time spread to the town hall, and the force of the explosion shattered its windows, contributing to the spread of fire through the building. This fire was fought almost wholly by volunteers, and the complete story appeared in the October 1933 issue of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

In the case of prairie and forest fires dynamite is used with a double purpose, to make a trench to block the progress of the fire and by extinguishing adjacent flames. This is done by blasting a trench four or five feet wide and about two feet deep. The explosion extinguishes the flames for several feet on both sides of the trench, just as a puff of wind blows out a candle. Earth may then be shoveled from the trench onto the smouldering grass and forest duff to prevent the flames from breaking out again.

An attempt was made to save the Town Hall of Ellsworth, Maine, shown above, by dynamiting a dwelling next to it which was threatened by the conflagration in 1933. Confusion in handling the explosive delayed the blast too long to be effective.

This picture was taken just as a dynamite blast toppled a building to clear a barrier to the progress of a sweeping fire in Gowanda, New York.

Overhead forest fires progressing from tree top to tree top require larger charges of dynamite to blast wider trenches and to bring down trees in order that flames will not jump across. Larger charges also blow the flames out more forcefully and throw more dirt over the fire.

Dynamite has been used successfully to blow out oil well fires after all other means have failed. When a charge is fired into the flaming torch of the gas well, the explosion suddenly liberates a large volume of rapidly expanding gases. The pressure and velocity of these gases from the explosion is so tremendous that they snuff out the flame above, temporarily stopping the flow of gas from the well, and blowing the blazing gas above so high and wide into the air that there is no flame left to ignite the gas when it starts to issue from the well again.

Specially constructed storage magazines are required for the storage of dynamite, blasting caps, and safety fuses as they tend to deteriorate when exposed to moisture. For reasons of safety blasting caps should never be stored in the same building with dynamite. Fire departments in large cities and in cities and towns specially menaced with conflagration possibilities may build their own magazines. This is not necessary where explosives are readily available from local contractors. Some arrangements should be made beforehand to obtain fresh supplies if and when they should be needed.

The explosive best suited for demolishing buildings is 60 per cent ammonia dynamite in 1¼ x 8 inch cartridges packed in 25 pound cases. Under no circumstances should blasting powder, railroad powder, or "low powder" (low percentage of nitroglycerine) be used for this purpose as they are likely to set fire to the building or throw fire to neighboring buildings.

Blasting caps and safety fuses are better suited for firing dynamite than electric detonators because it is less difficult to take a primer with fuses into a building than to take in one with electric blasting cap and wires attached. Then too it takes too long to connect the wires and there is considerable possibility of short circuits. A blasting cap consists of a small copper tube closed at one end and filled about half full of a very sensitive and violent explosive which is fired by a spark from the end of the safety fuse inserted in the cap. A safety fuse consists of a powder core surrounded by several wrappings of hemp and tape with waterproof compound between them.

A thorough inspection of the building to be blasted should be made before taking any explosive into it in order to make sure that all people are out and to determine the strength of the building. The amount of dynamite necessary to blow down an ordinary two-story frame dwelling should not exceed 200 pounds. The cases are usually placed at the center of the basement, or better still, at corners and side walls in the basement.

Oil well fires are difficult to extinguish because the intense heat prevents getting near enough for fire fighting operations. They are sometimes successfully blown out with dynamite.

Standard Couplings for 1½ inch Hose

Widely Used Special Thread, N.F.P.A. Standard, Advocated Instead of Variable Iron Pipe Sizes

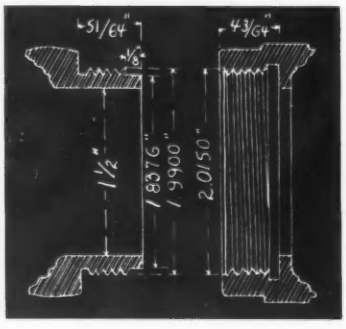
AT the time of the Baltimore conflagration of 1904 many fire departments from other cities and towns that responded to the call for assistance were powerless to help because their hose would not fit the Baltimore hydrants. This fire furnished the impetus for the adoption of the national standard 2½ in. hose coupling, which was developed at about that time by a committee of the National Fire Protection Association in co-operation with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the American Water Works Association, insurance underwriters and others. Since that time great progress has been made in the general adoption of the national standard 2½ in. hose coupling. It is in use throughout the greater part of the United States, and fire department authorities everywhere recognize the desirability of its use.

Anticipating the increasing use by fire departments of hose smaller than 2½ in., the National Fire Protection Association appointed a committee in 1919 to prepare a standard for small size hose couplings, and in 1922 this standard was adopted, embodying in the smaller size couplings the same advantages of substantial rugged construction, ease of handling and interchangeability which characterized the 2½ in. standard. At the time that this standard was developed there were in use in various parts of the United States at least nine different standards for 1½ in. and other small hose couplings. These were carefully considered by the committee. In the earlier case of standardization of 2½ in. couplings, a standard was developed which could be connected with the greatest number of the types of couplings then in use. This, however, did not prove practicable in the case of the 1½ in. couplings, for the type which then had the widest vogue was the so-called straight iron pipe thread. The committee felt that this should not be recommended for fire use because of its fine thread (11½ per inch) and the relatively thin wall of the male coupling. These iron pipe threads are easily crossed and the coupling is subject to injury in the rough usage of fire fighting. Furthermore there was considerable doubt as to the extent to which couplings reported as the iron pipe size were actually uniform and interchangeable.

The standard adopted by the N.F.P.A. for the 1½ in. hose couplings is shown by the accompanying diagram. It provides for a pitch of nine threads per inch and a sturdy coupling not readily injured in service.

The merits of the N.F.P.A. standard coupling were immediately recognized. Although no campaign was made to "sell" this standard, it has gradually come into wide use. A survey made during the summer of 1934 indicates it is in use in 23% of cities where 1½ in. hose is included as part of the regular equipment and is also in use to a considerable extent for private fire protection purposes.

N.F.P.A. STANDARD 1½ inch Hose Coupling Thread



9 Threads to Inch

Principal dimensions of N.F.P.A. Standard Thread shown in above drawing. Complete standard may be obtained on request to N.F.P.A.

The same considerations which make it desirable to have a national standard 2½ in. coupling thread apply to the standard for 1½ in. thread. While 2½ in. hose is principally used in major fires where cities call outside aid, there are many occasions where fire departments of several communities co-operate when it is desirable also to have the 1½ in. hose interchangeable. This is particularly true in the case of rural fires where the water supplies are limited and the smaller hose is largely used. It is also manifestly desirable to have uniform couplings on all 1½ in. hose so that in case of emergency the fire department 1½ in. hose may be connected to standpipe outlets or private fire hose can be used to supplement the fire department hose. The general adoption of the national standard also makes for convenience in ordering hose and new equipment, it being much easier to specify the N.F.P.A. standard than to have the uncertainty of having to match a non-standard local thread.

The N.F.P.A. standard for 1½ in. hose couplings has already been endorsed by a number of organizations and is now before the American Standards Association for approval. In this connection a proposal has been made that the so-called iron pipe standard should be used for standpipes. This proposal was considered by the International Association of Fire Chiefs at their 1934 convention and the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas: There was adopted by the National Fire Protection Association in 1922 a standard for hose coup'ings for 1½-inch hose, which standard is now utilized in many parts of the United States and Canada, and

Whereas: A project is now before the American Standards Association to substitute for the present standard coupling a specification accepting a coupling with a thinner wall thickness and an ordinary fine pipe thread, and

Problem Questions

FOR DECEMBER

Suggested for discussion at company and department meetings this month

3

In getting at a fire in the blind attic of a small dwelling, where should holes in ceilings be cut?

4

In dealing with a fire in a mattress or a piece of overstuffed furniture, what steps may be taken to lessen damage to the house?

Watch for the answers in the next issue of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Whereas: In fire department practice it is essential that all hose couplings conform to a single standard, be interchangeable, be strong enough to withstand rough usage, and the thread thereof be coarse enough to avoid injury and crossing in the coupling operation.

It is Therefore Resolved: That the International Association of Fire Chiefs looks with disfavor upon any attempt to depart from or lower the standard of the National Fire Protection Association for couplings of 1½-inch fire hose now adopted and accepted by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies and the U. S. Committee of Manufacturers on Standardizing of Fittings and Valves, and pledges its influence toward the wider general adoption and use of this standard coupling wherever 1½-inch hose is installed for standpipe or fire department use.

The present practice of communities that do not now use the N.F.P.A. standard varies widely. One and one-half inch couplings are used varying from 1.75 to 2.19 inches in outside diameter of the male thread and from 5 to 12 threads per inch. Every fire department ordering new 1½ in. hose or apparatus equipped with 1½ in. connections should specify the N.F.P.A. standard thread just as the standard thread is specified for 2½ in. couplings. Where the thread on existing 1½ in. hose and equipment is different it should be changed as replacements are made and in the meantime a supply of adapters should be carried to permit coupling the two thread types together. Whenever hose equipment is purchased by manufacturing plants, institutions or other large properties the fire department should see that the couplings comply with the N.F.P.A. standard.

Answers to November's Topics for Discussion

1

Q. What is the proper size nozzle to use in fighting residence fires that are not greatly advanced?

A. On 2½ inch hose lines, ⅞ inch or 1 inch nozzles. It is almost always necessary where a water supply is available to lay a 2½ inch line from the hydrant or pumper to the fire. If this line or lines are used directly on the fire, the nozzle should be the smallest normally carried by the department, namely, the ⅞ or 1 inch size. The relative amount of water used by the various size nozzles on 2½ inch hose is shown in the following table.

Size of Nozzle	Gallons of Water Per Minute with 50 lbs. Nozzle Pressure
⅞ inch	160
1 "	200
1⅛ "	265
1¼ "	326

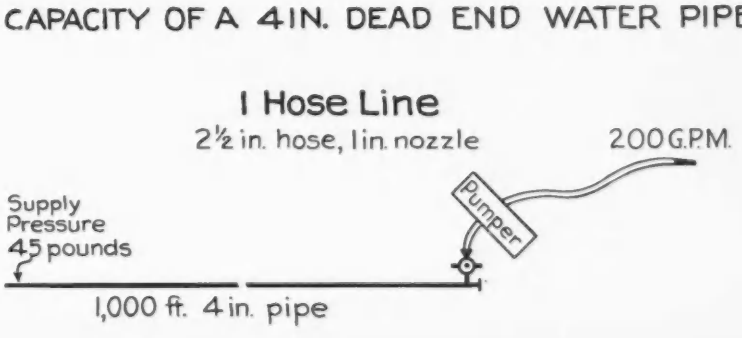
Many dwelling fires can be adequately controlled with booster lines which use only about 10 gallons of water per minute, a relatively small amount. It is seldom necessary to use lines at a fire larger than 1½ inches with ½ inch nozzles. These lines use only about 50 gallons of water a minute and can take care of a considerable amount of fire. In comparing these lines with larger lines and nozzle sizes it should be remembered that it is not the amount of water which is thrown, but the amount which goes on a fire which matters. The 1½ inch lines can be more readily handled and there is a better chance of the water getting on the fire than in the case of larger lines which require several men to handle them.

2

Q. Will a 750 or 1,000 gallon pumper work efficiently when connected to a hydrant with a 4 inch main?

A. No. A 4 inch main is at best ordinarily able to furnish a supply to approximately one ordinary 2½ inch hose line. If the 4 inch pipe happens to be fed from two directions as it would be if it is part of a loop, a somewhat larger supply might be obtained, but for average conditions it is probably good practice to figure that not much more than one hose line or 200 to 250 gallons of water per minute may be obtained from a 4 inch main. A pumper which will deliver 750 to 1,000 gallons can therefore get enough water for only a little more than one hose stream, whereas it is actually capable of delivering enough water for four or five streams. On this basis it can be reasoned that it is inefficiency to place a 750 or 1,000 gallon pumper on a 4 inch main if you expect to get the full capacity of the pumper.

Of course, the pumper may be operated at reduced speed and will deliver hose streams up to the capacity of the water it can get out of the main.


CAPACITY OF A 4IN. DEAD END WATER PIPE
1 Hose Line
2½ in. hose, 1 in. nozzle
200 G.P.M.
Pumper
Supply Pressure 45 pounds
1,000 ft. 4 in. pipe

Volunteer Firemen

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Observance of Fire Prevention Week, 1934. Despite the handicap of business conditions, Fire Prevention Week, 1934, surpassed previous observances. Requests for Fire Prevention Week literature received by the Executive Office, a barometer of the extent of the interest in the observance throughout the United States and Canada, substantially exceed those of 1933. The extent of the popular interest clearly indicates that what is an old story to the fireman and the fire protection engineer still has a fresh interest to the greater part of the populace.

Index to Volume I This issue completes Volume I of the magazine. There are fifteen issues in this volume since publication was begun in October, 1933. From now on there will be a new volume each calendar year.

As most members keep a file of the magazines for future use, we have included on the last page of this issue an index to Volume I, which we hope will be helpful.

Ontario Firemen's Group Endorses Volunteer Section At the convention of the Temiskaming Firemen's Association in October, a committee was appointed to look into the Volunteer Firemen's Section of the National Fire Protection Association. The committee brought in a report to the meeting urging that each delegate bring up the matter of membership at the next meeting of their respective departments and recommend affiliation of the department with the Volunteer Firemen's Section. As a result of this friendly action we already have had the pleasure of accepting the application of the fire department of Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

False Alarms An epidemic of false alarms appears to be sweeping over the country. There is no apparent explainable reason that we are able to discern, but the fact is indisputable. New York City had thirteen thousand false alarms last year, an amazing and serious condition. Other cities, large and small, report heavy increases. Many fire departments which have fire alarm box protection are undoubtably faced with the false alarm problem. There are certain steps that can be taken to check this evil, some of which are:

1. Posting of printed warnings on fire alarm boxes pointing out penalties for turning in false alarms.
2. Prompt and adequate penalties imposed by the courts for offenders.
3. Special patrols on nights before holidays.
4. Adequate instructions to school children on the danger to firemen who have to respond to false alarms.
5. Discouragement of idlers and hangers-on at fire houses. Such individuals are frequent offenders in malicious false alarms.

Section Membership over 7,000 So large a proportion of first year members of the Volunteer Firemen's Section are renewing their membership this year that with the new members the section enrollment is now over 7,000. The membership has grown at an average rate of nearly 500 new members a month during the 15-month period of the section's activities, a remarkable record for a new activity in a period of economic depression.

The essential worth of the movement is widely recognized. In addition to the membership in the territorial limits of the United States there are 483 members in Canada and 81 in Alaska. During the past month we have also had the privilege of enrolling a department whose name, translated from the Spanish, is the Volunteer Fire Department of Cali, Colombia, South America.

Since the last issue the following sixteen companies and departments with 350 men have enrolled. Applications for renewals have also been received from sixteen companies with 346 men. The total membership of the Volunteer Firemen's Section is now 7,066.

Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios, Cali, Valle, Colombia.

Robbins Hose Company No. 1, Dover, Delaware.

Roselle Volunteer Fire Department, Roselle, Illinois.

Ashburnham Fire Department, Ashburnham, Massachusetts.

Ware Fire Department, Ware, Massachusetts.

Knickerbocker Hook and Ladder Company, Closter, New Jersey.

Amherst Fire Council, Williamsville, New York.

Belle Center Volunteer Fire Department, Belle Center, Ohio.

Kirkland Lake Volunteer Fire Brigade, Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

The Wellesley Volunteer Fire Department, Wellesley, Ontario.

Buck Hill Falls Fire Company, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.

Delaware County Firemen's Association, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. (20 additional members).

Prospect Park Fire Company No. 1, Prospect Park, Pennsylvania.

Phoenix Fire Company No. 2, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Canadian Industries, Ltd., Montreal, Quebec.

Pecos Volunteer Fire Department, Pecos, Texas.

What They Say

About The Volunteer Firemen's Section of The National Fire Protection Association

Editorial Writer in the Stewart Manor, N. Y., Mail

"Active members of the department are receiving each month, and reading with interest (and, I trust, with profit) that very readable little magazine VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, put out by the Volunteer Firemen's Section of the National Fire Protection Association. The October issue, now at hand, is featured by a very interesting and strikingly illustrated story captioned 'Fire on the High Seas,' a discussion of the Morro Castle disaster and its lessons to seamen, to the traveling public and to firemen on the sea or on land. I wish a copy of this publication might be made available to all home owners and renters, too. We could all learn a lot from its comments, editorial and otherwise."

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Ray Pence, Chief, Fire Dept., Stillwater, Oklahoma

In an address before the Oklahoma State Firemen's Association at Alva, Oklahoma.

"You can get a world of information from the National Fire Protection Association. That little magazine, VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, has a world of stuff in it, and it is good. Ten dollars a membership for all that service is little enough, so give it serious consideration. You have some of those magazines which were mailed to your department, so take it up with the boys and discuss it and see if they won't obtain a membership."

□ □ □ □ □

G. F. Lewis, Deputy Fire Marshal, Province of Ontario, Toronto

"I feel satisfied that you are on the right track with the VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, or otherwise you would not have accomplished such splendid results in such a short time. I would like to see every volunteer fire department in the Province enrolled as a member in the Volunteer Firemen's Section, as it would be the most beneficial thing towards building up active and efficient fire prevention and fire protection that I know of in a practical way."

□ □ □ □ □

G. R. Robinson, Chief, Fire Department, Yuma, Arizona

"This next week I am taking a trip around the State of Arizona to visit the different fire departments. I will do all I can to help the Volunteer Firemen's Section along, for our boys here who belong think it is a wonderful help. I think it is one of the most helpful movements that has ever been started."

□ □ □ □ □

H. J. Clark, Chief Engineer, Oklahoma Inspection Bureau

"All the information assembled by the N.F.P.A. is made available to you by membership in this Volunteer Firemen's Section. I presume that most of you have received copies of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, but you haven't received copies of the technical reports, standards, news letter, Quarterly and Proceedings that have been issued and would be issued to you if you had a membership in that organization, and you cannot realize how much benefit you could obtain from it."

□ □ □ □ □

E. H. Wheeler, Chief, Fire Department, Franklin, N. H.

"Sometime ago I sent for several copies of the booklet, 'The Menace of the Wooden Shingle.' I gave a copy to each of the councilmen and to several of the leading citizens, and am happy to say I have succeeded in having an ordinance passed prohibiting the use of wood shingles for roof coverings in this city."

MEMBERSHIP PLAN

Volunteer Firemen's Section National Fire Protection Association

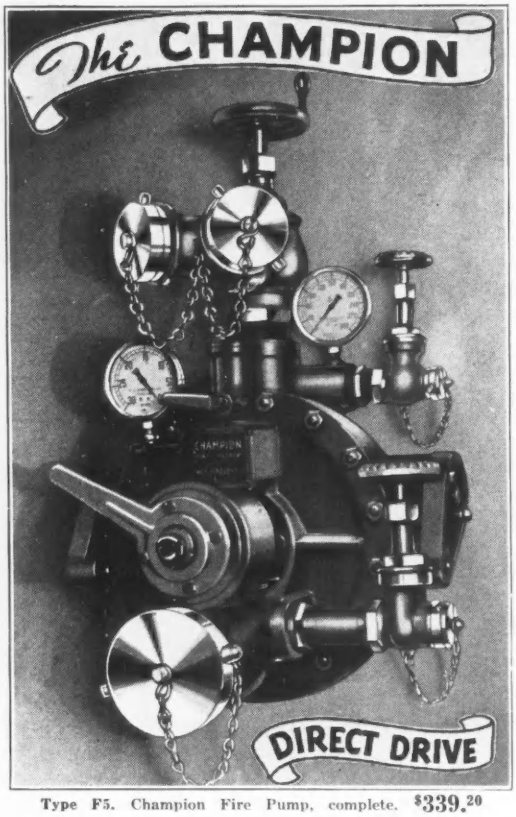
WHERE twenty or more firemen in a volunteer company or department affiliate with the Volunteer Firemen's Section the cost is 50 cents a year *per man*. Each fireman will receive one copy of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, the monthly journal of the Volunteer Firemen's Section, mailed regularly to his home address. The company or department automatically becomes a member of the National Fire Protection Association and is entitled to full privileges of membership. All the literature regularly issued to N.F.P.A. members is mailed to headquarters of the company or department.

Membership may be applied for by one member of the company or department collecting 50 cents for each of the 20 or more members and making a single remittance for the group, or the company or department may take a membership for its men and make a single remittance from the company or department treasury.

Companies With Less Than Twenty Members

Because of the large amount of material mailed to members, not less than $10.00 can be accepted from any company or department for membership dues. In the case of companies or departments with less than twenty men this means that the cost divided among them will be slightly higher per man. Of course, some such companies or departments may prefer to make a single remittance of $10.00 from the company or department treasury. In other cases a few interested citizens, not members of the company or department, may be glad to contribute 50 cents apiece to make up the required minimum of twenty, so that the members may secure the rate of 50 cents per man.

These companies or departments have full privileges of N.F.P.A. membership as above, and each member receives the monthly magazine, VOLUNTEER FIREMEN, at his home.



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Hosts of alert-brained Chiefs are tossing aside old ideas about Front Mounted Fire Pumps because the Champions are so BASICALLY different, so revolutionary in PRINCIPLE, so marvelous in PERFORMANCE that it's like a pump from another world!

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Can be mounted on any chassis, old or new. Easily attached by garage mechanics.

To fight and subdue fire a Fire Chief must have water, pressure and hose lines as well as trained men. The fight must be waged on front and flanks; leader line streams carried into the building while heavy hose lines play on roof eruptions and wet down surroundings.

With a mighty Champion Pump and sufficient water supply the Chief has first his booster tank water for the skirmish and then two heavy 2½ inch lines siamesed from the pump, and a 1½" line from the booster outlet, after the booster tank has been emptied. Or, he can lay one 2½" line from the pump siamese, with the other 2½" line siamesed into two 1½" lines and still have his 1½" booster line ☞ 4 powerful streams throwing 650 gallons a minute at high pressures.

Think it over—MORE THAN 2½ TONS OF WATER EVERY MINUTE IS EASY FOR A CHAMPION.

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Pyrene Prize Letter Contest for December

More Awards This Month to Firemen for Best Letters On Actual Fires Put Out With Fire Extinguishers

If you are a member of your local fire department you are missing a real opportunity to receive a cash award if you haven't set down on paper the story of one of the numerous fires at which you have been present where approved fire extinguishers were successfully used. Every month cash prizes are paid to those whose letters contain the best stories.

It's the story we want and no one need be bashful because he may doubt his ability to write the story effectively. We will attend to any rewriting necessary to get the story into the space available in these columns and will provide a suitable heading.

This contest is sponsored co-operatively by the Pyrene Manufacturing Company of Newark, N.J., and VOLUNTEER FIREMEN to bring the lessons which may be learned, from actual fires, of the value of fire extinguishers as a means of saving life and property. Your story can help in this important service.

The stories this month for which prizes have been awarded are thrilling accounts embracing the elements of great danger, quick thinking and courageous action.

Each month the following cash prizes are awarded: First Prize, $10.00; Second Prize, $3.00; Third Prize, $2.00. The contest is judged each month by the engineering staff of the National Fire Protection Association and the editors of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

FIRST PRIZE—$10.00

F. DUBOIS, *Chief*,
Fire Dept., Kenora, Ont., Canada

Foam and Chemicals Prevent Disaster

"Over a year ago we answered a call to a fire in a frame shed that stored a municipal air compressor. When filling the compressor tank with gasoline an emp'oyee spilt some of it on the hot exhaust pipe which caused a hot blaze. There were seven or eight sticks of dynamite on a shelf to dry, and against the outside of the shed was a box of dynamite and caps.

"When we arrived all the employees had fled and warned us to keep away. Our men, however, got busy with our 40-gallon chemical tank on the shed, and I used our 2½ gallon foam extinguisher on the compressor. Just as we were getting the best of the fire the gasoline tank of the compressor burst open and away went some 20 gallons of gasoline on fire. I kept the foam machine on it all and, believe it or not, I soon had the flames under contro!. Small children were in the windows of several residences nearby enjoying the sights, not realizing the danger that they were in."

SECOND PRIZE — $3.00

HAROLD RILEY,
Volunteer Fire Dept. Albany, Calif.

Extinguishers Save Freight Cars

"Receiving a call one night we rolled to an outlying district of our territory. On arrival we found that the center freight car of a string of twelve was burning. The cars were on a siding about 1100 feet from the road, and it was impossible to move our truck closer because of a trestle. As the car was burning briskly, time did not allow for the laying of hose by hand.

"Two men with soda-acid extinguishers soon had the fire confined to the oil-soaked decking. A third man with a carbon tetrachloride extinguisher snuffed out the decking. The department later received a letter commending them on promptness of action, which we realized was only possible with portable extinguishers."

THIRD PRIZE — $2.00

R. WILSON, *First Asst. Chief*,
Volunteer Fire Co., Texas City, Tex.

Saves Self and Pleasure Boat

"I was in the engine room, being the engineer, loading 200 gallons of gasoline. For some unknown reason there was a flash and the room was a roaring furnace. I was trapped in the front end of the engine room.

"As I was just in reach of a 2½-gallon foam extinguisher, I quickly put it in service putting out the fire, saving my own life, and a $40,000 pleasure boat."

HONORABLE MENTION

S. L. BOYDEN,
Volunteer Fire Dept., Greeley, Neb.

RALPH CHANDLER, *Chief*,
Fire Dept., Cross Plains, Tex.

J. A. LOCKARD,
Volunteer Fire Dept., Salem, W.Va.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants in the Pyrene Prize Letter Contest must be members of their local fire department.
2. Letters are to describe actual experiences where any approved fire extinguisher of any make has saved lives or property.
3. Trade names may be used but will be deleted in publication. Publishers reserve the right to edit winning letters to permit publication.
4. Each contestant automatically vouches for the truth of the facts presented from his own or others' experiences.
5. Only one letter may be submitted each month.
6. Letters must be legibly written in ink or typewritten on white paper, one side only. Preference will be given to letters not over 250 words in length.
7. Letters received after the 15th of the month will be judged in following month's competition.
8. Monthly prizes in cash will be: 1st, $10.00; 2nd, $3.00; and 3rd, $2.00.
9. Address contest letter to Pyrene Prize Letter Contest, National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass.

Announcing . . . .

The Volunteer Fire Company

By William Draper Brinckloe

CONTENTS

I. Let's Have a Fire Company
II. Buying the Engine
III. Hose and Helmets
IV. Chiefs and Chaplains
V. Building the Engine-House
VI. When the Siren Sounds
VII. Dollars and Cents
VIII. Brass Buttons
IX. Safety First
X. Be it Enacted:
XI. Getting Together
XII. Fire Prevention
XIII. The Private Fire Company
XIV. Books and Bulletins

The author of this new book describes himself as "an old volunteer fireman from a very old company." He sets forth his dearly bought experience to help his brother firemen. Mr. Brinckloe was the leading spirit in the organization of the Volunteer Firemen's Section. His untimely death prevents his participation in the Section's development, but his forceful character, good judgment and experience lives vividly in the pages of this book. Written for the use of volunteer fire companies, private fire departments, farmers' organizations, civic organizations, women's clubs, firemen's schools, insurance men and citizens generally, it is not in any sense a textbook, but an intensely interesting story of volunteer fire departments and volunteer firemen. A dozen leading fire protection engineers who reviewed the manuscript for technical accuracy all reported they found the text as interesting reading as a good novel and could not put it down until they had read every page.

Mr. Brinckloe as President of the Easton, Maryland, Fire Department, the Maryland State Firemen's Association and other fire fighting organizations, a member of the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the American Legion and other organizations and a writer of national reputation, presents this story which is at once fascinating reading and technically accurate. The book is sponsored by the Committee on Farm Fire Protection of the National Fire Protection Association which has reviewed it and finds all its recommendations consistent with the official standards of the Association.

The book is an attractive cloth bound volume of 168 pages with 24 illustrations of volunteer fire department apparatus, equipment and fire fighting methods. The book is published by the National Fire Protection Association at the nominal charge of $1 per copy postpaid.

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Index to Volunteer Firemen

Volume 1—October 1933 to December 1934

A	Issue	Page
Alarms, False. *Editorial*	Dec.	8
Alarms, One Way to Classify	Jan.	10
Alcohol, fire, Westwego, La.	Nov. '33	1
Annual Reports, One Way to List Alarms	Jan.	10
Apparatus Inspection, Weekly (form)	Mar.	5
Apparatus, Maintaining Hose and	Nov. '33	5
Arson Evidence, What to Do With. *George O. Q. Mansfield*	Aug.	10
Arson Fires, What to Look for at. *George O. Q. Mansfield*	July	10
Auburn, Maine, Conflagration	Oct. '33	3
Automobile Fires Increasing	Oct.	5
Automatic Sprinklers	May	1
Axe, Fireman's. *Frank C. McAuliffe*	Mar.	10

B		
Barn Fire, Unusual Handling of a	Dec. '33	2
Barn Fires, Spontaneous Ignition of Hay	Dec. '33	1
Big Fires in 1933	Jan.	1
Building Code, Using Model House to Put Over	Oct.	3

C		
California's County Fire Departments	Nov.	8
Capacity of Dead End Water Pipes	Nov. '33	11
Christmas Holiday Fire Hazards	Dec.	1
Citizen Prepares for Fire, A. *Donald Holbrook*	Feb.	4
Conflagrations: Auburn, Maine	Oct. '33	3
Ellsworth, Maine	Oct. '33	1
Hakodate, Japan	June	4
Couplings for 1½-inch Hose, Standard	Dec.	6
"Creosote" in chimneys	June	10

D		
Dead-End Water Supply Pipes	Nov. '33	11
Delaware County, Pennsylvania *Editorial*	Mar.	8
Demonstrations, Field. *Willard B. Hall*	Nov. '33	6
Discipline, A Chief's Comment on	Mar.	2
Discussion Topics for Company Meetings	Nov.	3
Discussions. *Editorial*	Feb.	8
Drill Manual, Fire Department	Dec.	8
Drillmaster, Texas Volunteers Get a State	Dec. '33	3
Drills, Taking a Hydrant and Laying a Line. *Robert B. Rogers*	Jan.	5
Dwellings, fighting fires in. *Frank C. McAuliffe*	Nov. '33	3
Dynamite to Fight Big Fires, Using	Dec.	4

E		
"Egyptian" Fire Fighters, The	Mar.	6
Electric Lights and Gasoline Vapor	July	6
Electrical Cords, Help Promote Safe	May	3
Electricity, Static	July	5
Ellsworth, Maine, Conflagration	Oct. '33	1
Exhibits to teach fire prevention at Fairs	June	1

F		
Fairs, Volunteers at the County	June	1
Farm Fire Prevention	Sept.	7
Farm fire protection, Water systems for	Oct. '33	4
Farm Fires Confined to Buildings of Origin	Nov.	11
Field Demonstrations. *Willard B. Hall*	Nov. '33	6
Fire, An easy way to see how it acts	Aug.	5
Fire Colleges, opportunities for training	Oct. '33	10
Fire Department Instructors Meet in St. Louis	Feb.	2
Fire Department, What it is Expected to Do	Jan.	2
Fire Departments More Efficient. *Editorial*	May	2
Fire Fighting by Volunteers	Apr.	1
Fire Fighting Story Which Shows How Not To Do It	Dec. '33	2
Fireless Town, Touhy, Nebraska	June	2
Fire Loss, 1933	Aug.	4
Fire Losses in 1933	Jan.	1
Fire Prevention Week, 1934	Sept.	1
"Fire-proof"?, When Is a Building	Mar.	1
Fire Schools Get Under Way, 1934	Apr.	3
Fire Stream, The "200-Gallon"	Jan.	10
Fire Tests, Woonasquatucket Valley Firemen's League, R.I.	Nov. '33	6
Fires That Put Themselves Out	Feb.	3
Flier Gives Fire Alarm	Feb.	3
Forest Fire Signal Corps, A. *Willard B. Hall*	Apr.	6
Freezing, preventing apparatus and extinguishers from	Nov.	1

G	Issue	Page
Gases, Poisonous, from Burning Materials	Feb.	2
Gasoline Fire Fatal to Firemen	Aug.	1
Gasoline Pumps Can Be Kept Safe	Mar.	3
Gasoline Storage	Sept.	10
Gasoline Vapor, Electric Lights and	July	6
German Dictatorship Provides 2,000,000 Firemen	Aug.	6
Grass Fires	Apr.	2

H		
Hakodate, Japan, Conflagration	June	4
Hay, Spontaneous Ignition of	Dec. '33	1
Hazards, Know Your Fire. *Editorial*	Aug.	8
Holiday Fire Season, The	Dec.	1
Hose Beds, Methods of Loading	Sept.	4
Hose, Care of. *Editorial*	Apr.	8
Hose Layout Calculations	Jan.	10
Hose Lines, Data on 1½-inch	Nov.	10
Hose Lines, Estimating Number Mains Can Supply	Nov. '33	11
Hose, Maintaining	Nov. '33	5
Hose, Standard Couplings for 1½-inch	Dec.	6
Hose Streams, Comparison of	Oct. '33	5
Hose, Taking a Hydrant and Laying a Line. *Robert B. Rogers*	Jan.	5
Hydrant, Taking a Hydrant and Laying a Line. *Robert B. Rogers*	Jan.	5
Hydrants, Standard Markings For	Nov.	6

I		
Ignition, Spontaneous	Dec. 33	1
Illinois, Egyptian Fire Fighters Association	Mar.	6
Inspection, Weekly Apparatus (form)	Mar.	5
Insurance for Volunteer Firemen, Accident	Jan.	4
Investigation, What to Look for at Arson Fires	July	10

J		
Jamestown, N.Y. Gasoline storage plant explosion	Aug.	1

L		
"Let's Have a Fire Company." *William Draper Brinckloe*	May	4
Lightning Rods Make Buildings 32 Times Safer	Sept.	11
Loading Hose Beds, Methods of	Sept.	4
Los Angeles County's Fire Department	Nov.	4
Loss of life, *Morro Castle* ship fire	Oct.	1
Loss of Life from Fire	Dec. '33	9
Low Temperature Ignition of Wood	Sept.	7

M		
Maintaining Hose and Apparatus	Nov. '33	5
Maryland Volunteers, Fire Prevention Wins for	Oct.	3
Massachusetts Water Holes. *Editorial*	Apr.	8
McPherson, Kansas, Disastrous Fire	Oct. '33	7
Mechanical Refrigeration, fire hazards of	May	9
Memorial to San Francisco's Famous Woman Volunteer	Dec. '33	3
Morro Castle, Ship fire	Oct.	1
Mutual Aid, Conflagration at Ellsworth, Maine	Oct. '33	1
Mutual Aid, The "Egyptian" Fire Fighters	Mar.	6

N		
National Electrical Code	May	3
National Fire Protection Association, objects and background	Oct. '33	9
New York Vamp Shield Law. *Edwin H. Seaman*	Nov. '33	10
New York Volunteer Firemen on the Air	Jan.	4
Nozzles, sizes, pressures, best streams	July	4
Nozzles, sizes for residence fires	Dec.	7

O		
Oil Burners, Range	Dec. '33	8

P		
Poisonous Gases from Burning Materials	Feb.	2
Politics, The Effect of. *Editorial*	Feb.	8
Presque Isle's "Snowmobile"	Mar.	4
Pressures to Produce Best Fire Streams	July	4
Profitable Measures in Fire Prevention	June	3
Program of the Volunteer Firemen's Section. *Editorial*	Nov. '33	8
Pulpwood Piles Make Bad Fires	Feb.	1
Pumper "suction"	May	10
Pumper Suction, Water Sites for	Feb.	5
Pumper connected to hydrant on 4-inch main	Dec.	7

Q	Issue	Page
Qualifications of Volunteers. *Clem Smith*	Aug.	4

R		
Radio programs by New York Volunteers	Jan.	4
Range Oil Burners	Dec. '33	8
Relative humidity and static electricity	July	5
Rural fire protection	Nov.	10
Rural fire protection	Nov.	11
Rural fire protection. County control of, in California	Nov.	4
Rural fire protection, water systems for	Oct. '33	4
Rural fire protection, What farmer can do for	Aug.	6
Rural fires, causes of	Sept.	7

S		
Salvage Corps, The First Volunteer. *William Paul Babcock*	June	5
Salvage Wagon, Stillwater's Volunteer	Jan.	3
Salvage Work, The Fireman's Special Tools for	June	7
School, A Volunteer Company. *Editorial*	May	8
School, Using Model House at Fire	Oct.	3
Schools, Fire, Listed by states	Oct. '33	10
"Snowmobile", Presque Isle's	Mar	4
Spontaneous Ignition	Dec. '33	1
Sprinklers, Automatic	May	1
Standard Markings For Hydrants	Nov.	6
State Fire Marshals, Cooperation of the. *Editorial*	Dec. '33	6
Static electricity, a fire cause	July	5
Stores, Fighting Fires in Dwellings and Small	Nov. '33	3
Switzerland, Geneva, "Modern" Fire Fighting Methods of 1789	Dec.	3

T		
Taking a Hydrant and Laying a Line. *Robert B. Rogers*	Jan.	5
Texas Volunteers Get a State Drill Master	Dec. '33	3
Traffic Crash, Volunteers Killed in	Mar.	4
Traffic light signals, Passing of, by Volunteers	Dec. '33	3
Training, Opportunities for	Oct. '33	10

V		
Ventilation, Pointers on	Dec. '33	4
Volunteer Firemen, The Value of. *Editorial*	June	8
Volunteer Firemen's Section, organization and object. *Editorial*	Oct. '33	8
Volunteer Firemen's Section, scope of the. *Editorial*	Dec. '33	6
"Volunteer, The", From *The Spectator*	July	8

W		
Water Sites for Pumper Suction	Feb.	5
Water Supply Pipes, Dead-End	Nov. '33	11
Water Systems for Fire Protection	Oct. '33	4
Water Systems, Planning Town, *Clarence Goldsmith*	July	1
Westwego, Louisiana. Alcohol tank fire	Nov. '33	1
Winter, Getting Ready For	Nov.	1
Wooden shingles, Auburn, Maine conflagration	Oct. '33	3
Wooden shingles, Ellsworth, Maine conflagration	Oct. '33	1
Woonasquatucket (R.I.) Valley Firemen's League. Field Demonstrations	Nov. '33	6

Tables

Characteristics of 1½-inch Hose Lines	Nov.	10
Direct Cause of the Loss of Life in Fires	Dec. '33	11
Friction of Water in Pipes	Nov. '33	10
Maximum Lift in Feet. Engine Drafting	May	10
Pressures to Produce Best Fire Streams	July	4
To Make Non-Freezing Water Solutions	Nov.	2
Where Loss of Life (from Fire) Occurred	Dec. '33	10

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